

Hiker Initiation Program

I used to think that I was a well-organized person until I met Tom Swales. I have worked with Tom as a Hike Leader for the last two years and he has impressed me on many occasions. Tom led the Hiker Initiation Program this year and he was so well prepared that the Orientation Session at the North York Centre on April 16 drew warm applause for its attention to detail. With the support of Alina Lin through various means of social media we attracted registrations from over 180 participants. Orientation ran like clockwork because of all of Tom's prior careful work, aided by Rose Barcarse who answered numerous emails and Karen Hanson who helped at the registration desk.

Something that you might not know about Tom is that he is an amazing hike leader. Using a presentation prepared by Camara Chambers, Tom gave a comprehensive overview of hiking that captured the many responsibilities that go into attending a hike. Peter Leeney and John Grandy provided an insight into the breadth of work undertaken by the Bruce Trail Conservancy, while Larry Haigh spoke of the depth of his experiences in hiking.



Information Session at North York Civic Centre, April 16th

It is a daunting prospect for new hikers to be faced with purchasing the right gear for hiking, from boots and socks to backpacks and hats. Entering a role that has supported many hikers in the past, Ted Iseman gave an overview of hiking apparel, that paved the way for the following evening's visit for registrants to the Mountain Equipment Coop stores. Jacqui Van Dyke and Alina Lin were at the North York store helping out and also sharing our forthcoming Toronto End to End. Brenda Menezes and Tom headed up the team that made its way to the brand new MEC Queen Street store.

The HIP Orientation on April 16 and visit to the Mountain Equipment Coop stores held the promise of being the springboard for our car and bus hikes on Saturday, April 27. Peter Leeney coordinated the car hikers that met at Scotsdale Farm. He was well supported by six other hike leaders: Tanya Cora, Ted Iseman, Robert Gillespie, Dariush Khanbeigi, Kody Pakzad and Sufiya Mary Reid. Tom Swales led the bus hike to Terra Cotta supported by Brenda Menezes and David Royle.

The Toronto Bruce Trail Board of Directors extends its congratulations to the organizing committee for this years Hiker Initiation Program. If you would like to be involved in organizing next years HIP Program contact Tom Swales. His email address is **tjswales@gmail.com**

David Royle, Hiking Director